

A FARMER'S TALK TO FARMERS.

The Ice House on the Farm--The Advantages of It--How Easily It Can Be Built--An Inexpensive and Very Useful Addition--The Cost of a Small One and How to Build and to Pack the Ice So that It Will Keep.

(Written specially for The Bulletin.)

When I was a boy--never mind how many years ago, it was a good many--there was but one ice-house in this farming town. The big hotel, to which summer guests came from the city simply had to have ice. Its house for keeping the chilly stuff was a great curiosity to all the boys of the town, and lucky was he thought who happened to be near by at the hour when the house was opened and the day's supply taken out. He could then see the mysteries of the dark interior, which at other times was closely shut up and sealed against intrusion. It was a great tale he had to tell his playfellows in the next week how he had seen great blocks of real ice, weighing as much as a barrel of flour, taken out and hurried to the ice-boxes at the hotel. And this right in mid-summer! Gradually we came to believe the marvelous yarn, but generally not till some other discoverer had likewise seen the wonder, and corroborated the tale.

That particular ice-house was excavated against the face of a hill. It was a small affair, and the walls were of heavy stone laid up in mortar; the roof was covered with earth and sodded over; the one entrance was a small door, and the other--the inner one--also of plank, the covering of which was made of ice. I made me a structure ten feet square and eight feet high. If my pieces of six inch plank were ten feet long I spliced them by the crude method of butting two together and "fishing" the joint with thin nails nailed on both sides, and with the rafters I boarded the outside with the waste stuff left around the new shop building. Then I nailed the very best boards I had in the six-inch studding, making an inclosed six-inch air space. This I stuffed with sawdust, ramming it down as hard as I could. The roof was made of pine slabs, laid at a quarter-pitch. I made the roof project well over both ends, and left the gables open for ventilation.

The average farmer, in those days, would as soon have thought of buying a barrel to go to market in as of building an ice-house. He relied on his cellar to keep fruit and vegetables; on his "spring house" to keep milk and butter. Some used to keep their cream in the well, suspended by a rope around the churn; so that the mouth was kept above water, and the cream would not be soiled. I discovered that an ice-house should be built above ground; that it needed ample ventilation; that sawdust was a better protector than hay or straw; that these things had been found out old and farmer dream of having his own ice. Even now, in this remote spot, and I doubt not in some of the other similarly situated, not one-half the farms have an ice-house among their outbuildings.

Yet an ice house is about the most enjoyable luxury that life affords during the hot summer months. Moreover, it's a money-saver. Not only in large dairies, but on the farm where only two or three cows are kept its value in connection with milk and cream is hardly to be overestimated. In many farm houses the hot season is one of constant worry and weariness to the housewife, because of her dairy and cream. A dozen pans of milk, in an ordinary milk room, on a sweltering day in July, will create a most oppressive atmosphere, and more trouble than a roasting baby. Of course, ice doesn't eliminate all the discomforts of the heated season, but it conquers more than any other one thing. Not only in regard to dairy matters, but also in the keeping of meats and vegetables it is a potent helper.

As for ice water, you can drink it or leave it alone, according to your own judgment. I think there is no doubt that the free use of ice water made by plunging fragments of ice into the pitcher, and cooling the water almost to the freezing point, is not wholesome. Such water is cooler than any natural spring affords; the temperature is to drink it profuse on hot, sweating days; it tastes mighty good while going down, but it must be more or less of a shock to the inner organs of digestion. A very cooling beverage can be obtained by putting the ice around the outside of your pitcher, and then pouring the water into the pitcher. This also keeps the ice from melting so fast. And even the clearest looking ice can be dirty in its--more than you'd think, unless you try the experiment of melting a cake and letting the dirt settle.

The uses and enjoyments of ice are so many that I wonder any country should have a single summer to pass without having it. The health and happiness some are deterred from building one by fear of the cost and trouble

involved. They needn't be. By the use of waste materials which are usually plentiful on farms, almost any one can build a perfectly satisfactory ice house in his spare hours. If my own experience is my criterion, it can be done at very little money-cost, and can be maintained with very little trouble.

The year I built my shop I had a lot of left-over bits of timber, and the carpenters were through. I was stacking up the pieces when suddenly the thought occurred to me that I might make an ice-house out of them. We never had one, though we had long wanted it. I had a gravel ridge near my barn, perhaps twenty feet wide and six or eight feet above the hollow on either side. I dug out a saucer shaped excavation on the crown of the ten feet square, six inches deep at the outside and eighteen inches deep at the center. From the lowest point I dug a ditch through the gravel till it ended on the side of the ridge. This I filled with round cobble stones, hoping it would serve to drain the water from the melting ice. It has done so for some ten years.

Then I rough-hewed four sticks six inches square for the sills, and simply halved them together at the corners. Pieces of 2 by 6 plank were set up for the corner posts and studs. This I made me a structure ten feet square and eight feet high. If my pieces of six inch plank were ten feet long I spliced them by the crude method of butting two together and "fishing" the joint with thin nails nailed on both sides, and with the rafters I boarded the outside with the waste stuff left around the new shop building. Then I nailed the very best boards I had in the six-inch studding, making an inclosed six-inch air space. This I stuffed with sawdust, ramming it down as hard as I could. The roof was made of pine slabs, laid at a quarter-pitch. I made the roof project well over both ends, and left the gables open for ventilation.

Thus I got a box nine feet square on the inside and eight feet high to the plates, with a double wall, sawdust stuffed. I did all the work with my own hands in about three days. I'm no carpenter, you see! I did not use a saw, but a hand plane and a chisel. I single whole board or plank--just the pieces the carpenters left from their work, and some slabs from the waste heap of a neighboring sawmill. I had to buy a pair of hinges for the door. They cost me 15 cents. And that was all the money I spent on the ice-house. Three days' work and 16 cents in material; nothing very dreadful about that, eh?

Every winter I pay a teamster neighbor, who draws ice as a winter business, \$10 to fill my house. Sometimes he draws three, if he has to come on wheels. Every winter, also, I pay 25 cents for a load of fresh sawdust--draw it myself, of course. Every summer we have all the ice we can use for domestic purposes (we run a small dairy) and every summer enough to ice-less neighbors at 25 cents a cake to amount to from \$5 to \$6. That is, a little cash and a load of ice--the work of a few days--and an ice house which cost three days' work and fifteen cents in money, has given us every summer for more than ten years all the ice we wanted at a net annual cost of \$5 or less.

I've just been looking it over. Ice from eight to ten inches thick is reported from the nearby ponds, and the supply is likely to come along very soon now. Some of the inside boards are pretty rotten. They "do" once more though. Next fall, probably, there'll have to be some patching. Also, the slab-roof is about used up. I shall probably have to have a new one, next year, on "repairs." Well, I guess it will be worth while. I shan't kick, should you?

Just one suggestion about packing the ice: I've tried pounded ice and sawdust between the cakes to fill the crevices. A very cooling beverage can be obtained by putting the ice around the outside of your pitcher, and then pouring the water into the pitcher. This also keeps the ice from melting so fast. And even the clearest looking ice can be dirty in its--more than you'd think, unless you try the experiment of melting a cake and letting the dirt settle.

ing from Middletown, is the son of a former pastor of the Congregational church of this town. Mrs. Davis is his niece. His wife, Mrs. Charles Robbins of Middletown is his sister. Mrs. Robbins has several orders for knitted gloves.

Grace Watrous has been taken to the Norwich hospital.

WILLINGTON.

Class to Study Pilgrim's Progress--Over One Hundred at New Year's Party.

Sunday morning the pastor, Rev. Mr. Gardner, gave an interesting "Thoughts on the New Year," his text being Exodus 12:2. Rev. Mr. Gardner preached instructively. Numbers 10:30. Come thou with us and we will do thee good.

At the Endeavor meeting in the Congregational conference room, Miss Gardner presided. The subject of Resolutions for the New Year was discussed.

The regular monthly business meeting of the Ladies' Aid society was held with the president, Mrs. Preston, Tuesday afternoon.

Several of the topics in the forthcoming Y. P. S. C. E. list being selected from Pilgrim's Progress, a class for the study of the book has been planned and held its first meeting at Maple Corner from 7 o'clock until 8 o'clock Thursday evening. Rev. Austin Gardner has for many years made a study of this remarkable work and is always able to talk interestingly upon it.

Success of New Year's Reception.

Everything worked together to make the New Year's party a grand success. The attendance was large, over a hundred were present, and all sections of the town were represented. The supper did due credit to the Willington people and was enjoyed by all. The gathering at the parsonage, where the time was passed in music, Mrs. W. H. Hall at the piano, and a social hour was ideal. The weather was perfect. A handsome sum which according to time-honored custom was left with the pastor and his wife was realized.

The nervous malady of Miss Grace Watrous, who has been alling for some time, having taken a more serious aspect, she was carried to the hospital at Norwich for medical treatment.

Mrs. Waldo returned to Hartford Thursday.

D. B. Gardner started on a western business trip Monday.

The schools commenced Monday morning after a Christmas vacation. Miss Burleson returned Saturday afternoon and took her boys' class in the Sunday school next day.

The increased interest in the Baptist Sunday school continues.

Dr. Lawrence from West Medway, Mass., was in town last week, he was entertained at John G. Himes's.

Two touring cars came on on Friday evening to the New Year's party, loaded to capacity. Colonel Hall drove, one and Mr. Griggs, the chauffeur, the other.

The Charles James reported in the papers as missing from Middletown is thought here to be Charles James, youngest son of a former pastor of the Congregational church. He was never in Middletown, and was of a melancholy temperament. His father was a native of Northfield, Mass., and belonged to one of the oldest families there.

David Russ and family spent Christmas at Merrow.

Mrs. L. M. Knight and son Milton, Cora Grant and son Harold, and Clinton Grant of Storrs spent Christmas at their home.

C. B. Moore of Boston spent Christmas at home.

Mahli Moore has been visiting relatives in West and South Willington.

Joseph Monro, Jr., has resigned from the employ of A. G. Turner.

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Eat Your Favorite Food Without Fear

ENJOY YOUR MEALS WITHOUT THE FEAR OF DYSPEPSIA

HAVE TH'S OVER WITH

Rid Yourself of All Misery from a Weak Stomach by Taking Some Diapiesin Which Cures Before You Realize It.

If your meals don't tempt you, or you feel bloated after eating, and you believe it is the food which fills you, or if little white acid lies like a lump of lead on your stomach, if there is difficulty in breathing after eating, eruptions of sour food and acid, heartburn, brash or a belching of gas, if you can make up your mind that you need something for a sour stomach and indigestion.

To make every bite of food you eat aid in the nourishment and strength of your body, you must rid your stomach of poisons, excessive acid and stomach gas, which sour your entire meal--interfere with digestion and causes so many sufferers of Dyspepsia, Sick Headache, Nauseous breath, and stomach trouble of all kinds; putrefying the intestines and digesting a canal, causing such misery as Bilelessness, Constipation, Griping, etc.

Your case is no different--you are a stomach sufferer, though you may call it by some other name; your real and only trouble is that which you eat does not nourish, but sours the stomach, and causes a sour stomach and indigestion.

A case of Diapiesin will cost fifty cents at any Pharmacy, and will convince any stomach sufferer five minutes after taking one Triangule that Fermentation and Sour Stomach are causing the misery of Indigestion.

No matter if you call your trouble Catarrh of the Stomach, Nervousness, or any other name, a certain cure is waiting at your Pharmacy almost any time you decide to begin its use.

Paper's Diapiesin will cure the sour and most acid Stomach within five minutes, and digest promptly without any fuss or discomfort all of any kind of food you could eat.

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permission to sell a mortgage belonging to said estate for \$10.

George N. Crandall was appointed administrator on the estate of Lavelle Browning, deceased.

Town Council's Appointments.

The town council Monday afternoon appointed the following officers: Daniel E. Blake, health officer and also collector of statistics of births and deaths in 1908; Herbert E. Lewis, inspector of buildings; and Benjamin Kenyon, appraiser of personal property on the town farm. Bills against the town to the amount of \$340.41 were ordered paid.

ROCKVILLE.

Golden Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Stillman--Endeavor Officers.

Thursday evening, December 31, marked the fiftieth milestone of the wedded life of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Stillman. Mr. and Mrs. Crandall were united in marriage by the Rev. Stephen Burdick at the home of Mrs. Crandall's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Pendleton, Mr. and Mrs. Abel B. Kenyon served as best man and bridesmaid. The anniversary was not formerly observed as Mrs. Crandall's health is not good, but their friends extended congratulations and best wishes.

Officers of Christian Endeavor Union.

At the Christian Endeavor meeting Saturday afternoon the following officers and committees were elected: President, Harold B. Crandall; vice president, Mrs. Annie B. Kenyon; corresponding secretary, Miss Lyla A. Babcock; recording secretary, Miss Evelyn L. Palmer; prayer meeting committee, Mrs. Annie B. Kenyon, Miss Lena Saunders, Carlisle Irish; looking after the home of Mr. and Mrs. Crandall, Miss Ada Woodmansee, Edwin Burdick, Evelyn Palmer; music committee, Mrs. Lyla A. Babcock, Harold B. Crandall; flower committee, Mrs. E. E. Sutton, Mrs. Margaret Burdick, Florence Barber; social committee, Miss Lyla A. Babcock, D. Alva Crandall, Rev. E. E. Sutton; literary committee, Rev. E. E. Sutton, D. Alva Crandall.

Briefs and Personals.

A number of young people were entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Omas Edwards Saturday evening.

Elio N. G. Barber, Miss Florence and Master Wilfred Barber, and Miss Eva Palmer attended the play, Champagne and Oysters, at Laurel Glen last Saturday evening.

A new water wheel has been put in at the Centerville mill this week.

The mills at Rockville started up Wednesday after being still ten days.

ARCADIA.

A. P. Chase is drawing logs to Barre and Reynolds' sawmills.

Mrs. Mary Austin is ill.

Mrs. Charles H. Reynolds, who has been ill for several weeks, is improving.

Thomas Tefft has built a large dwelling house.

Ernest Woodmansee visited friends in Moscow, Conn., last week.

WEEKAPAG.

Miss Jennie Ogle, who has been sick for a long time, is slowly improving.

Willie Purcell of Salem, Conn., is at Deacon S. A. Congdon's.

Cora Grant and son Harold, and Clinton Grant of Storrs spent Christmas at their home.

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The First Hands

Hands do not touch GOLD MEDAL FLOUR at the mill.

The work is all done by machinery. Buy GOLD MEDAL FLOUR Have clean bread

WASHBURN-CROSBY'S GOLD MEDAL FLOUR

THE VERY HIGHEST QUALITY

senatorship there will be no nominating speeches made. This arrangement is in accordance with the plan followed at the caucus in 1905 when Senator Brandegee was first nominated.

Mr. Kenaley's Estimate.

The forecast of Chairman Michael Kenaley that Senator Brandegee will be nominated by a good majority over Congressman Hill at the republican senatorial caucus next Tuesday afternoon is the conclusion drawn from a thorough and careful canvass.

Mr. Kenaley has achieved distinction as an accurate political forecaster. His predictions have generally proved true on the side of conservatism, and he now says that he has not been surprised if the senator had a lead of two to one.

The survey of the senatorial situation made by Mr. Kenaley is an interesting contribution to the literature of the campaign. He insists that in spite of the fact that a majority of the republican senators and representatives is now assured--Hartford Times.

The confidence of Mr. Brandegee and his managers has at no time been shaken. The crusade which Mr. Hill's backers have made has been aggressive, but apparently it has made more poles than votes. The Brandegee campaign has been much quieter and has issued fewer proclamations, but unless the indications are all askew and unless forecasters and observers who are ordinarily reliable have become blunderers in the twinkling of an eye, the New Year's day re-nomination is now assured--Hartford Times.

Here are two ways of washing. Choose for yourself:

The Old Way. Get up at 5 o'clock. Make hot fire, fill the washboiler and get it boiling. Wet your white clothes, soap them and put them into the boiler. When they're boiled good and tender, rub them hard on the washboard, meanwhile putting others in to boil. Keep the fire good and hot. It will fill the house with nauseous steam but that's necessary in this kind of washing. When noon comes, if the smell of boiling clothes hasn't taken your appetite, snatch a bite of cold lunch. When you have the clothes boiled and rubbed sufficiently, wring them out, go from the steaming hot room into the cool air outside and hang them on the line. You'll likely catch cold, but it must be done.

The New Way. Get up at 7 o'clock summer and winter. Wet all your clothes, soap well with Fels-Naptha and let them soak in cool or lukewarm water for 30 minutes. Then rub lightly, rinse well and hang out to dry. That's all. And your clothes will be cleaner, whiter and purer than you could get them in any other way. The whole washing takes only a few hours.

Which way sounds best to you? In using Fels-Naptha, follow simple directions printed on the red and green wrapper.

Don't Get Mad.